

obtain a reservation for travel on an airline for the price if the condition satisfies a restriction that includes a seller fare.

128. A method of operating a computer to process a sale, comprising:

inputting a plurality of rules received from a seller, each rule including at least one restriction relating to the sale;

inputting a conditional purchase offer, the conditional purchase offer including a price, a condition relating to the sale, and a credit card identifier;

receiving authorization to pay the price with the credit card identifier if a rule from the plurality of rules satisfies the conditional purchase offer;

identifying a rule based on the conditional purchase offer;

comparing the restriction associated with the identified rule to the condition of the purchase offer; and

outputting a signal indicating if the restriction associated with the identified rule satisfies the condition of the purchase offer.

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in this Preliminary Amendment are 98 - 128. Claims 1 – 97 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 98 - 128 have been added in order to distinctly claim the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 98, 112, 113, 116, 117, 122, 123, 127 and 128 are independent.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy he extended during the telephone conversation of April 7, 1998 and the guidance regarding the time within which to provide this Preliminary Amendment.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Please charge any fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. If an extension of time is required, or if an additional extension of time is required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, please grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this Response timely, and please charge any fee for such extension to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. A duplicate copy of this authorization is attached.

Respectfully submitted,


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